gth March A NOTABLE STRATAGEM AT THE CAPTURE OF AMIENS

The Spaniards suddenly took Amiens by a stratagem on the 1st of the month, which is a shrewd loss to the King, for whole magazines of provisions for war are there with forty pieces of battery

The capture was on this wise The whole affair was -under the conduct of the Governor of Dorians, who had often been inside Amiens disguised, as the Bishop of Amiens confesseth Hereby he perceived that the gate of the city which heth on tne farther side of the Somme towards Dorians was "very carelessly guarded, especially at the hour of the sermon, to which all the good citizens went, leaving the gate in charge of mercenaries and common troops He therefore chose out 700 picked men, sending on ahead fifteen or twenty of them, armed and \\ith cuirasses, and carrying pistols and daggers, but disguised as peasants Behind them came a waggon covered with straw[7] and conducted by the Governor himself, also disguised The rest of the troops marched through the night and in such excellent order that by the hour appointed they were within a very short distance of the city

About 8 o'clock in the morning, five or six of those in advance entered the gate, carrying sacks of nuts and apples as though they were peasants from the neighbouring villages going to market These sat down within the gate, feigning to be weary, and waited until the waggon and the other men came up Then the waggon, having come on to the bridge, stopped in such a way that half was under the arch of the gate where the portcullis would fall, and the other half still upon the bridge Hereupon the men with the sacks, as though by

mischance,
spilt their nuts and apples, and the guard rushed after them,
•whereat the Governor cut the traces of the horses in the waggon
so that it could not be moved, whilst his men with their harque-
busses fired upon the guard and slew them The men behind
the waggon sprang in, and though the portcullis was lowered, it
came down upon the waggon, leaving space enough for the
soldiers to pass in and out By this the main body came up,
and having raised the portcullis and drawn out the waggon,
they made themselves masters of the gate, and (which is more to